



CONGRESSMAN
**FRANK
PALLONE**



Working for Central New Jersey

House Passes Pallone Bill to Combat Abuse of Prescription Drugs

Over the past decade, prescription drug abuse has dramatically increased. Today, the Drug Abuse Warning Network estimates that prescription medications are the drug of choice for one-third of abusers. The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention also reports that 43 percent of drug overdoses in 2000 were a result of the misuse of prescription drugs.

Despite these sobering statistics, until recently, no coordinated national system existed to prevent abuses from happening in the first place. Twenty-one states have been successful at fighting abuses by implementing prescription drug monitoring programs where pharmacists report any prescriptions with potential for high abuse or addiction to a state monitoring authority.

In October, the House passed bipartisan legislation introduced by Pallone that will provide federal grants to states to follow suit and cre-

ate their own statewide monitoring programs. The legislation also calls for the sharing of information between states so that abusers can't get around the program by simply going to another state to fill a prescription.

Secures Federal Funds for Community Health Center of Asbury Park & New Brunswick Children's Hospital

As the health care needs of residents in Central Jersey continue to grow, we need our health care facilities to adapt. In November, Pallone secured \$740,000 in federal funds for the expansion of two facilities in our area as part of a giant appropriations bill that passed Congress.

He secured \$500,000 for the construction of a new facility for the Community Health Center of Asbury Park in order to enhance the primary and preventive health care services it provides to the area's most vulnerable children and adults. The new 8,000

square foot building will include much needed examination rooms, lab areas, consultation offices and administrative and clerical space.

He also secured \$240,000 for the expansion of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. The funds will allow the hospital to offer new programs in the areas of pediatric neurosurgery, cardiac and transplant treatment.

Authors Bill to Help Late Stage Cancer Patients

In September, Pallone introduced legislation that would provide Medicare coverage to patients diagnosed with late stage cancer who do not have health coverage. Currently, patients must wait two years before they are eligible for Medicare, many of which do not survive long enough to reach eligibility. The legislation would lift the waiting period, allowing terminally ill cancer patients without health coverage to immediately receive Medicare.

Pallone Fights for Local Military Base

Fort Monmouth has played a leading role in the transformation of our nation's military to meet the communication and technology needs of the 21st Century. As the military prepares for another round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions in 2005, Pallone is working to ensure that the exceptional work done at the Fort can continue.

This year, he secured \$1 million dollars in federal funds to upgrade the telecommunications systems at the Fort, bringing the total to \$6 million in the last three years.



Pallone is working closely with his Save Our Fort Committee, a committee made up of business leaders, local elected officials and employees of the fort, to ensure that Fort Monmouth remains a thriving military base. He meets regularly with his committee regarding the concerns of the community and with state government officials, as well as important Pentagon and Army officials, to discuss ways to expand the Fort's mission.

Pallone, left, speaks to members of his Save Our Fort Committee on his efforts to promote and preserve Fort Monmouth.

Protecting Our Environment

Pallone Secures Funds for Superfund & Shore Protection Projects

Since New Jersey has more Superfund sites than any other state, toxic waste cleanup programs have a profound impact on our health and welfare.

After a lack of funding caused cleanup to slow at the Chemical Insecticide Corp (CIC) Superfund site in Edison earlier this year, Pallone was instrumental in winning approval of \$3.1 million from the EPA to continue clean up. He also received a commitment from the EPA that funding will continue to flow to the project so cleanup is not delayed again.

South Amboy & Sandy Hook Transportation Projects

As the most densely populated state in the nation, New Jersey depends on transportation projects that help to relieve congestion and encourage the use of mass transit.

Pallone secured \$1.25 million for the South Amboy Intermodal Transportation Station, the only combined rail, bus, ferry, auto and pedestrian transportation center in the state. The funds will complete the second and final phase of the construction of an elevated platform, the addition of handicapped accessibility and the facilitation of overall safety upgrades to the station.

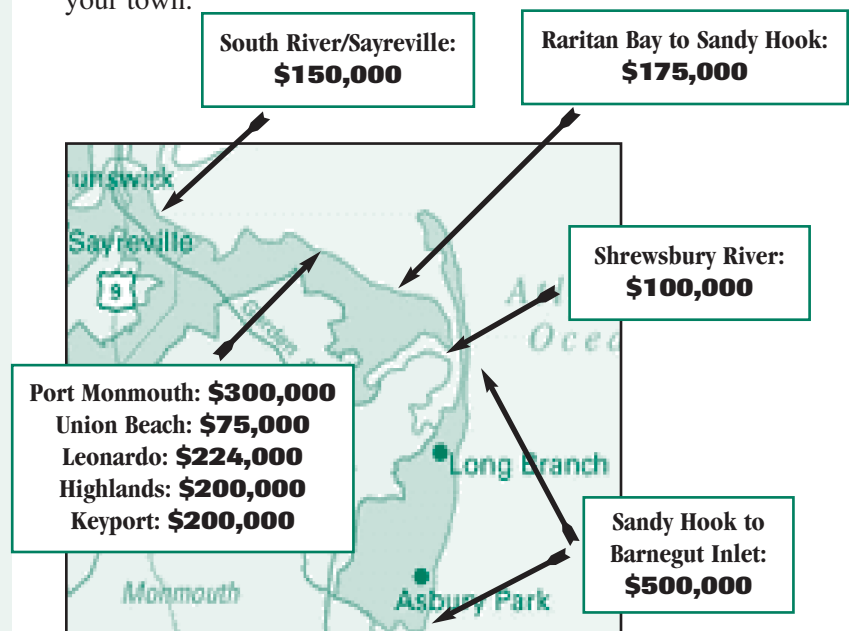
Congress also approved his request of \$400,000 for the construction of a docking facility at Sandy Hook that will help serve the park's 2.5 million annual visitors, help to cut down on vehicle emissions and reduce the environmental impact on park resources.

October also marked the opening of the new multi-use bike path on Sandy Hook. Pallone was instrumental in securing the \$1.8 million dollars in federal funding to construct the 5.5 mile path for use by walkers, joggers, skaters and bikes.

Funds for Beach Replenishment and Flood Control Projects

This year, Pallone was successful in getting federal funds for several critical beach replenishment and flood control projects. The funding was included as part of a giant appropriations bill that passed Congress in November.

In total, Pallone secured \$1.9 million in federal funds for projects along the Bayshore and coastline, \$801,000 above what was recommended in the president's budget. See the map below for flood control and beach replenishment projects in your town.



Rep. Pallone's District Offices — Reaching Out to You

If you have a problem of a federal nature or want to obtain information on legislative issues, contact these offices, open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Middlesex/Somerset/Union

67/69 Church St., Kilmer Square
New Brunswick 08901
732-249-8892

Monmouth

504 Broadway
Long Branch 07740
732-571-1140

Bayshore/West Monmouth

I.E.I. Airport Plaza
1390 Rt. 36, #104, Hazlet 07730
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*Working for
Central New Jersey*
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Official Business



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